GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1168
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2002
PROVIDING TEXT BOOKS FREE OF COST TO STUDENTS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to provide text books free of cost to the students of Primary Schools;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to bear the cost towards distribution of free text books; (

(c) the name of States where steps have been taken in this regard; and (

(d) the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): Under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, launched inNovember 2000, there is provision of free textbooks to all girls and SC/ST children at primary and upper primarylevel if this facility is not already provided to such students by the State Government from its own funds. In case any State is partially subsidizing the cost of textbooks being supplied to children i n Elementary classes, then the assistance under SSA would be restricted to that portion of the cost of the books which is being borne by the children.

(c) & (d) : Under SSA funds for distribution of free textbooks have been provided to the following States in the year 2002-03 so far:-

STATE	Total (amount) (Rs. in lakhs)
Bihar	2043.02
Himachal Pradesh	329.89
Haryana	734.78
J&K	833.72
Kerala	1436.26
Karnataka	458.85
MP	1164.607
Nagaland	42.56
Sikkim	10.4
Tripura	336.39
UP	6119.86
Uttaranchal	604.75
West Bengal	76.87
Lakshadweep	9.47
Total	14201.427